



# Informational Notes for EMDs and Local Officials

Bulletin #27 – March 18, 2003

## National Alert Level Raised to Orange

On March 17, 2003, President George W. Bush spoke to the nation about the possibility of war with Iraq. One of the post-speech actions was raising the National Alert Level to Orange. SEMA will contact and coordinate with ALL State Agencies, operate the SEOC during normal working hours, conduct communications checks, validate communications with FEMA and major metropolitan areas and prepare to assist the Governor with media information requests.

Local Emergency Management Directors should consider activation of any critical infrastructure facility security plans, review plans, procedures and/or personnel staffing levels that may be associated with the introduction of a higher security level. Coordinate security efforts with local and state law enforcement agencies as the situation warrants. Until further notice the SEMA Duty Officer will be the after-hours point of contact.

SEMA has developed a “draft” document titled *“Guidelines for Implementation of the Homeland Security Advisory System at the Local Level,”* for your review and use. It contains suggested recommendations on what actions you could take at the local level when advisory conditions change. This document is currently available at the SEMA website: [www.sema.state.mo.us/semapage.htm](http://www.sema.state.mo.us/semapage.htm).

For more information contact: Tom Mohr, SEMA Terrorism Program Manager. 573-526-9245

## FEMA’s Guide to Citizen Preparedness for Orange

Here is some readiness information you might want to share with your elected officials, local media and citizens. FEMA’s Guide to Citizen Preparedness is available on the web at <http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/>.

Protective measures that you can take for a “High Condition (Orange)” threat level include:

- Develop a home disaster plan— and discuss each family member’s job and how to communicate in the event of an incident;
- Assemble a disaster supply kit with food, water and first aid supplies for home, work, and your car;
- Be sure to have a battery operated radio and extra batteries to stay informed;
- Have a list of emergency contact numbers, (fire, police, hospitals, and family members) near the phone;
- Review and practice evacuation plans and learn the concept of “sheltering in place”
- Check with school officials to determine their plans for emergency procedures;
- Apartment residents should discuss emergency procedures with building managers;
- Contact neighbors to discuss their plans and needs and how you might help each other;
- If you have special needs, be sure to discuss your plans with family, friends, and your employers;
- Be observant of suspicious activity and report it to authorities;
- Avoid high profile or symbolic locations;
- Exercise caution when traveling;
- Prepare yourself by taking a course in First Aid and CPR Training.
- Contact local churches or volunteer organizations to assist, educate, or work with elderly residents.

## SEMA Announces Reorganization

The State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) Director Jerry B. Uhlmann announced there will be five branches – Executive, Operations, Mitigation & Floodplain, Planning & Disaster Recovery, and Fiscal.

SEMA Deputy Director Buck Katt oversees the Executive Branch. The executive branch is composed of Public Information, Information Technology, Geographic Information Services, the Statewide Volunteer Coordinator and the MERC.

James Wakeman is the Branch Chief for Operations. Operations is responsible for Training, Exercises, Terrorism Grants, Radiological Emergency Preparedness, Communications, and coordinates state agency disaster response activities via the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).

George Riedel is the Branch Chief of Mitigation and Floodplain Management. This branch has two sections: Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation. Sheela Amin is the State Hazard Mitigation Officer responsible for Flood Buyout Projects, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, post disaster mitigation projects and the NOAA Weather Transmitter Projects. The Floodplain Management Section and will work closely with National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) participating communities to ensure citizens will be able to purchase flood insurance.

Chuck May is the Planning and Disaster Recovery Branch Chief. This branch has two sections. Senior Planner Brenda Heidbreder will manage the planning section and work with the nine regional area coordinators. Alan Prenger will manage the Disaster Recovery section, which include post disaster damage assessments, information gathering for possible Presidential Disaster Declarations, and in the event of a declaration working with local officials on Public Assistance (Infrastructure Damages to Public Property).

Craig Rodick is the Fiscal Branch Chief. This branch is responsible for Human Resources, Purchasing and all accounting activities.

### **SEMA's John Tandy Retires**

SEMA's former Natural and Technological Hazards Planning Branch Chief John Tandy retires March 31, 2003. However Tandy's last day at SEMA was March 15. Tandy was the West Plains Civil Defense Director and editor of the West Plains Quill, before he joined SEMA 16 years ago. He was named Natural and Technological Hazards Planning Branch Chief in 1994. He is a retired colonel in the Missouri National Guard. Good Luck in your retirement!